

12 January 2000

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Donna Shalala, Secretary
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

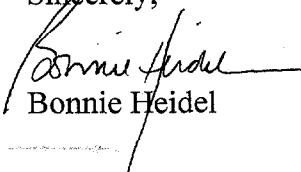
Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to express my concern about the possible weakening of existing food labeling requirements for irradiated food under consideration by the Food and Drug Administration. I strongly believe that it is a consumer right to know if food has been treated with radiation.

Exposure to radioactive isotopes causes chemical reactions in food products that compromise nutrition, if not safety from carcinogens, in exchange for appearances. This processing with its permanent changes warrants full, permanent, clear disclosure on a prominent place on packaged foods and the retail display posters of unpackaged foods. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer.

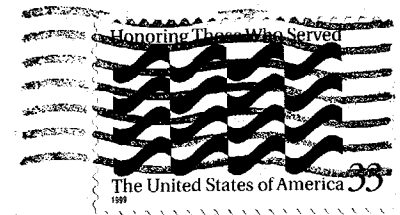
It is my hope that you will defend my right to know in this far-reaching decision.

Sincerely,


Bonnie Heidel

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